2020 CALENDAR

AND FISCAL YEAR 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

Valley Water

Vasona Reservoir
Vasona Lake County Park

Clean Water

Healthy Environment

Flood Protection

Calero Reservoir

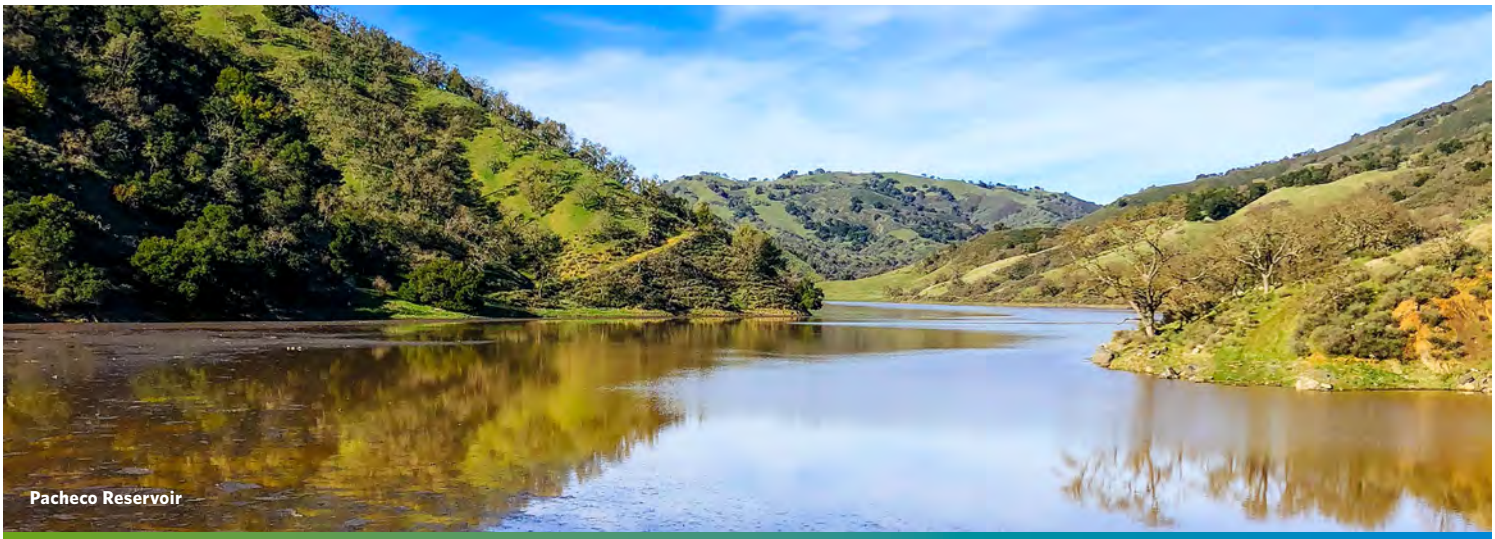
THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT IS NOW KNOWN AS VALLEY WATER

Led by a seven-member elected board of directors, Valley Water is charged with providing safe, clean water, a healthy environment, and flood protection for the people of Santa Clara County. A healthy environment and a healthy economy rely on clean water, clean streams and efforts to reduce the risk of flooding. Here for you is an accounting of what Valley Water accomplished in fiscal year 2018–19 to protect and enhance our water supply, the environment and flood protection in Santa Clara County.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

We are now Valley Water

- After more than 40 years with the same logo, Valley Water celebrated its 90th year by modernizing its name and visual brand to emphasize our forward-looking, environmentally conscious approach to water resources management.
- The new logo is intended to better represent the full mission of Valley Water. The top of drop evokes the valley's mountain peaks, while the swoosh in the middle represents our local streams. The blue at the bottom reminds us of the groundwater beneath our feet, a critical component of our water supply. The inclusion of green better represents Valley Water's environmental stewardship mission.
- The new tagline, "Clean water · Healthy environment · Flood protection," is intended to concisely represent the core functions of Valley Water.
- The official name of the agency will remain Santa Clara Valley Water District, but Valley Water will be used as a shorter reference.



Pacheco Reservoir

Water supply for our future

- Valley Water is focused on preparing for future wet and dry years to ensure Santa Clara County's 2 million residents have a reliable water supply no matter what extreme weather the changing climate brings. One project currently being developed is the expansion of Pacheco Reservoir, a great example of incorporating both water supply and environmental benefits into a major infrastructure project.
- In July of 2018, Valley Water conditionally secured $484.5 million in funding from California's Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 to expand Pacheco Reservoir, located 60 miles southeast of San Jose, just north of Highway 152.
- The project will boost Pacheco Reservoir's operational capacity from 5,500 acre-feet to up to 140,000 acre-feet, enough to supply up to 1.4 million residents with safe, clean water for one year.
- The project will also reduce the frequency and severity of water shortages during droughts, provide water supply during emergencies, enhance groundwater storage and recharge, and improve the habitat for the native steelhead population, a species federally listed as endangered.

Volunteers celebrate after a successful cleanup day.

Healthy environment

- For the past several years, Valley Water has helped coordinate efforts in Santa Clara County for two nationwide events aimed to help protect our environment. Every May and September, hundreds of volunteers descend upon our local creeks and rivers to remove pollutants, debris and trash out of local waterways as part of National River Cleanup Day and California Coastal Cleanup Day. Volunteer cleanup efforts are important in supplementing the work that Valley Water crews do year-round to try to keep our waterways clean.
- On May 18, 2019 at National River Cleanup Day, 1,070 local volunteers cleaned 62.9 miles of creeks in Santa Clara County and collected 46,645 pounds of trash.
- On Sept. 15, 2018 at California Coastal Cleanup Day, 1,931 local volunteers cleaned 75.25 miles of creeks and collected 56,808 pounds of trash.

Upper Llagas Creek

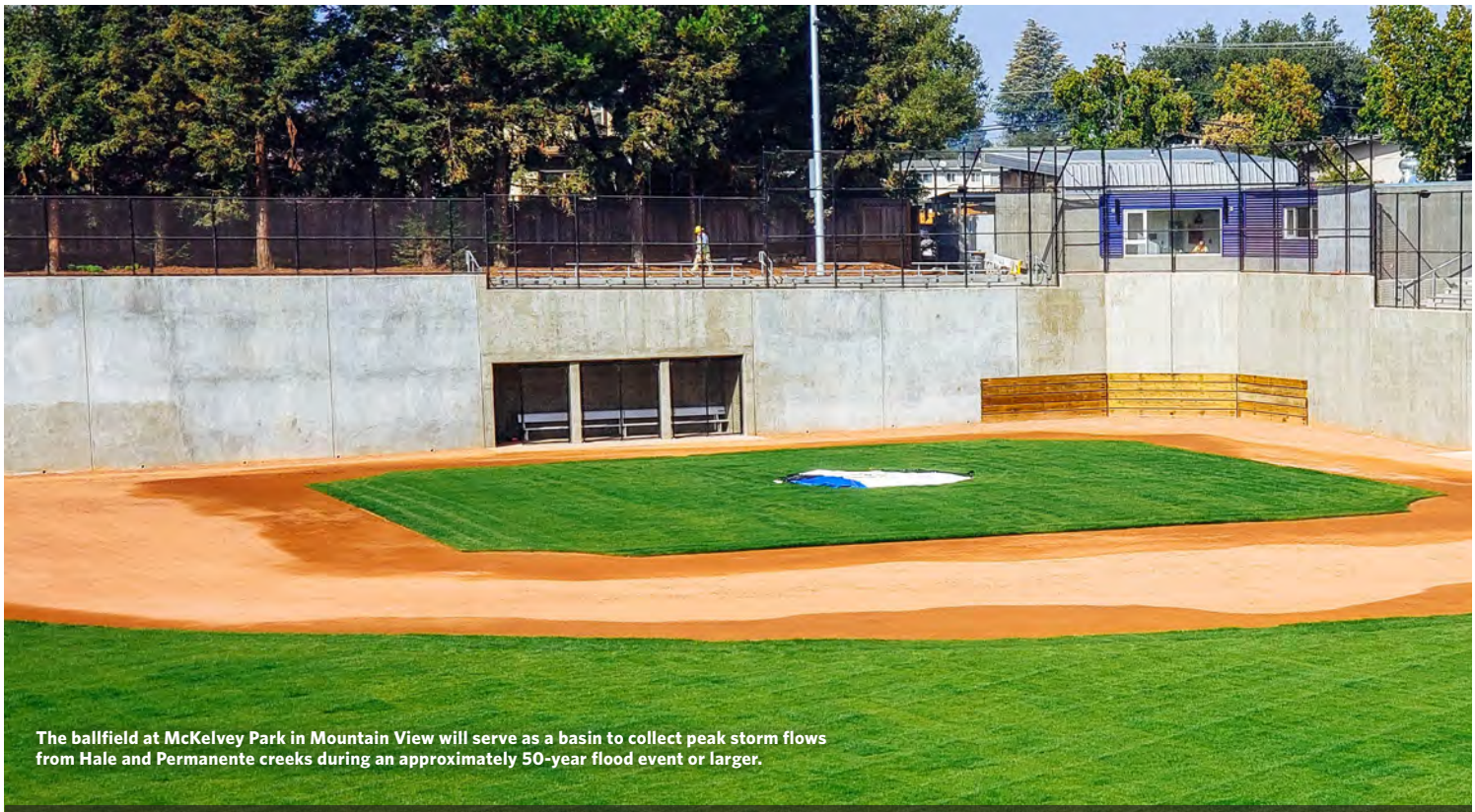
Key project breaks ground

- In early September 2019, a few months after the end of the fiscal year, Valley Water began construction on the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project, which once completed will provide flood protection to about 1,100 homes, 500 businesses and 1,300 acres of agricultural land in southern Santa Clara County.
- The project, which will cost approximately $180 million and is estimated to be completed in 2024, consists of about 13.9 miles of flood protection improvements along East Little Llagas, West Little Llagas and Llagas creeks within the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill and the unincorporated area of San Martin.
- Voter support of flood protection projects like this one has been vital. A portion of the funding for this project is coming from Measure B, the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (***https://bit.ly/safecleanwater***) that was overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2012, as well as other state and federal sources.

Friendship Bridge in San Francisquito Creek, Palo Alto, CA

Balanced budget

- In May, the Valley Water Board of Directors adopted a $528.9 million budget, and a five-year Capital Improvement Program that describes Valley Water's capital investments for the next five years.
- The capital investments for fiscal years 2020–2024 include 67 capital projects for a total estimated cost to Valley Water of about $4.4 billion, with an additional $1.2 billion expected from outside sources, for a total of $5.6 billion. This amount is the total cost for all the projects, not what Valley Water expects to expend in the next five years. Many of these projects will take longer than five years to complete.
- The total value of construction contracts planned for award during the next five years is about $1 billion, which will generate or sustain between 10,000–20,000 jobs.
- To help ensure our infrastructure continues to meet the public's water supply needs in the future, the board increased water rates by 6.6% for most of the county, and 6.9% for parts of the county south of San José. The result was about an extra $2.93 and a $1.07 increase respectively per month for the average household.



The ballfield at McKelvey Park in Mountain View will serve as a basin to collect peak storm flows from Hale and Permanente creeks during an approximately 50-year flood event or larger.

DEDICATED TO KEEPING SANTA CLARA COUNTY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES SAFE THROUGH OUR FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Valley Water takes flood protection seriously, and we have projects throughout Santa Clara County to lessen the risks of damage to homes, businesses and agricultural land. The Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project, once completed, will provide a 100-year level of flood protection to urban areas of Morgan Hill. That means Llagas Creek should be able to withstand flooding in the event of a large and rare storm event that has a one-in-100 (1%) chance of occurring in any given year. Other projects under construction or that were completed in FY19:

Permanente Creek Flood Protection

- This project will provide flood protection for at least 1,650 homes, businesses and schools in Mountain View and Los Altos, create recreational opportunities and enhance the environment.
- The project spans 10.6 miles of Permanente Creek, from San Francisco Bay's southwest shoreline through Mountain View to Foothill Expressway in Los Altos.
- This project uses a natural flood protection approach to prevent potential flooding damages in excess of $48 million (1999 value). It includes channel improvements, two flood detention areas, recreational improvements, and enhanced habitat.
- There are three flood protection elements at different parts of Permanente Creek. Valley Water has completed one element and continues construction of the McKelvey Park and Rancho San Antonio detention sites. The entire project is expected to be completed in 2020.

San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project

- When completed, the project will protect the shoreline communities and businesses of Santa Clara County at the southern end of the San Francisco Bay from coastal flooding and future sea-level rise.
- In July 2018, the federal government provided $177 million in funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to cover the construction cost between Alviso Slough and Coyote Creek.
- Pre-construction work started in May 2019, as trucks began hauling in about 300,000 cubic-yards of material to construct a levee that will reduce coastal flood risks for the community of Alviso, the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center and nearby businesses, including several Silicon Valley tech companies.
- In June 2019, San Francisco Bay's Restoration Authority awarded Round 2 grant of $57 million to Valley Water towards the project. The grant is expected to be disbursed over five years.

San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project

- In October 2018, Valley Water, as part of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA), completed the first phase of a flood protection project from the San Francisco Bay to Highway 101.
- The major work completed includes about 4,000 feet of floodwalls and a significantly wider creek marsh plain. The completion of this stretch protects about 1,100 parcels in East Palo Alto and Palo Alto from a 100-year flood event.
- The JPA is pursuing the next phase that will help protect an additional 4,400 parcels across three cities and two counties, the vast majority of which are in Santa Clara County.

Lower Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project

- The Lower Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project will provide 100-year flood protection to approximately 1,820 homes, schools and businesses in Milpitas.
- When complete, the Lower Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project will provide new floodwalls, improved levees, and widened creek channels to accommodate higher creek flows. This project also provided planting to enhance and enlarge wetlands and riparian habitat.
- The project is being implemented in three phases. Work on a key segment of the second phase, a section from Abel Street to Calaveras Boulevard, began during the summer of 2016 and will be completed by the end of 2019.
- Construction on the Lower Calera Creek segment of the project, which spans from the Lower Berryessa Creek confluence to Milpitas High School, is expected to begin in the summer of 2020 and be completed by the end of 2021.

Cunningham Flood Detention Facility

- The Cunningham Flood Detention Facility is an $11.6 million flood protection project located in Lake Cunningham Regional Park. Lake Cunningham is a man-made lake that allows the community to enjoy a tranquil setting and recreational activities. Built in coordination with the city of San José in the late 1970s and early '80s, it serves a dual function as a flood detention facility.
- During strong storms, the park helps capture excess flows of water from the Lower Silver, Flint and Ruby creeks, reducing flood risks for neighboring homes and business.
- To meet FEMA certification requirements, an existing levee was raised along Capitol Expressway and Cunningham Avenue. A floodwall ranging from one to four feet high was also constructed along Cunningham Avenue and Flint Creek.
- These improvements, in combination with the completed Lower Silver Creek Flood Protection Project improvements, will protect about 3,200 properties from a 100-year flood event.
- The project was completed in the fall of 2019.

Uvas Creek Levee Rehabilitation Project

- Currently, the project is helping to offset some of the severe damage to its levee along Uvas Creek caused by burrowing animals such as ground squirrels. These critters created a series of tunnels and holes along one mile within the levee.
- The project is rebuilding the levee to its as-built condition and implementing measures to prevent further holes from occurring. It is removing and replacing both banks from Miller Avenue to the Gilroy Sports Park.
- Valley Water began Phase 2 of the project in June 2019 and is repairing the creek side of the levee from Miller Avenue to the end of the levee by Gilroy Sports Park.
- The infrastructure replacement is required to maintain the 100-year flood conveyance of Uvas Creek.

Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project

Valley Water continues to execute short-term solutions while working on longer-term efforts to protect homes and businesses along Coyote Creek. Following the flooding in February 2017, Valley Water identified short-term flood relief solutions that would not exacerbate flooding elsewhere. We installed a 400-foot long floodwall and 500-foot long berm in December 2018 to protect the Rock Springs community, repaired a damaged levee adjacent to the South Bay Mobile Home Park community, removed invasive vegetation, and installed and repaired gauge stations along bridges and road crossings. In May 2018, Valley Water signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which will allow Valley Water to conduct a Feasibility Study with as-needed technical help from the USACE, paid by Valley Water, which is an important step in securing federal funding for a flood protection project for the creek.

- Valley Water is completing a Planning Study on Coyote Creek from Montague Expressway to Tully Road which will ultimately identify a preferred project alternative and prioritize elements of the project for design and construction.
- The project will develop solutions to protect Coyote Creek communities to the level of the February 2017 flood, which was the highest flow event since Anderson Dam was constructed in 1950.
- In the past fiscal year, Valley Water gave three presentations at public meetings to keep the community updated on our efforts. Valley Water shared with the community the potential project alternatives and gathered feedback from the public.
- Currently, the project team is refining the conceptual project alternatives, which are complementary to the Anderson Dam project design. We are gathering public input, and coordinating with outside agencies to come up with comprehensive project alternatives that are feasible.
- In September 2019, Valley Water began conducting a levee inspection of lower reaches of the project to assess the structural condition of the levees protecting the area.
- Valley Water presented the refined project alternatives to the public in November 2019.

ADVANCED PURIFIED WATER: TAP INTO THE FUTURE

Valley Water is working to make sure we always have a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply. Purifying recycled water provides a drought-resilient, locally controlled water supply that will help us meet the needs of Silicon Valley now and into the future. Valley Water operates the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, the largest purification facility in Northern California, which purifies recycled water using proven technology—microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet disinfection. Currently, this purified water is blended with recycled water and used in the county for irrigation and industrial purposes. The purification center purifies water to such levels that it will be suitable for a variety of future uses, including the potential future expansion of drinking water supplies.

- Building upon our success in operating this plant since 2014, Valley Water is developing alternatives for expanding it or building similar purification facilities in locations with other wastewater treatment partners in the county. Purified water can be a very valuable drought-resilient supplement to our other sources of drinking water.
- Recycled water, which isn't used for drinking, will remain an important source of water for landscape watering and for cooling in industrial and commercial facilities.
- Valley Water's goal is to develop recycled and purified water to provide for at least 10% of Santa Clara County's water demands in the near future.

BY THE NUMBERS

24,000 acre-feet per year
Valley Water plans to develop up to 24,000 acre-feet per year of additional highly purified water for potable reuse by the year 2028 and support continued production and expansion of recycled water.

8 billion gallons a year
of a new, drought-resilient water supply, enough water to serve ...

74,000 households each year
in Silicon Valley.

1,695 visitors and 77 tours
Total amount the the Recycled/Purified Water Outreach Team hosted in this fiscal year.

Main Avenue and Madrone Pipeline Restoration Project

MAKING SMART INVESTMENTS IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Valley Water manages and operates a complex and integrated water supply infrastructure, including dams, reservoirs, pipelines, levees, pump stations, treatment plants and recycled water facilities. With a significant portion of the water supply infrastructure approaching 40 to 50 years of age, Valley Water is carrying out major capital improvement projects to ensure each facility functions as intended.
Some of the infrastructure investments we made this year include:

Main Avenue and Madrone Pipeline Restoration Project

- Valley Water completed work on the project, which involved the installation of 2.7 miles of raw (untreated) water pipeline that allows us to replenish our groundwater basin in South Santa Clara County.
- These pipelines are now capable of functioning at full operating capacity. Water from Anderson Reservoir will pass into the Main Avenue percolation ponds and Madrone Channel and from there, to the groundwater aquifer.
- The project will increase Valley Water's groundwater recharge in South County by about 2,000 acre-feet per year and maximize the delivery of imported water to treatment plants supplying drinking water to northern Santa Clara County.

Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

- On the north fork of Pacheco Creek, the proposed expanded reservoir project includes the construction of an earthen dam made of rock and soil upstream of the existing dam.
- The expanded reservoir would be filled by a combination of rainfall, runoff from North Fork Pacheco Creek and imported water supplies.
- As mentioned earlier, the project will boost Pacheco Reservoir's operational capacity from 5,500 acre-feet to 140,000 acre-feet, nearly equal to the capacity of Valley Water's other 10 reservoirs combined.
- Valley Water is conducting studies, investigations and surveys to design and evaluate potential environmental impacts and feasibility. The environmental report is expected to be released by 2022.
- In Santa Clara and San Benito counties, about 40 percent of our water currently comes from the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta. In the event of an earthquake, Delta levee failure or other major catastrophe, we could lose that water supply for up to 18 months. In times of such emergencies, the expanded Pacheco Reservoir could provide enough water to supply up to 1.4 million people for one year.

Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvement

- Construction continues to modernize the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant, which has provided continuous and reliable service since 1967.
- Valley Water is more than halfway through the second of five phases, which involves the construction of several facilities, including the raw water ozone contactor, flash mix facility, flocculation and sedimentation basins, wash water recovery facility and temporary water piping.
- The project will increase peak capacity of the plant from 80 million gallons of water a day to 100 million gallons a day and help Valley Water meet increasingly stringent standards for water quality, seismic stability and safety.

Pipeline Reliability Project

- This project will construct four new line valves at various locations along the East, West and Snell treated water pipelines in Saratoga, Cupertino and San José.
- Valley Water began stakeholder engagement and completed planning and preliminary design for the Snell Pipeline, East Pipeline and West Pipeline at Santa Clara Distributary line valve assemblies.
- The project will allow Valley Water to isolate sections of pipelines for scheduled maintenance and repairs following a catastrophic event, such as a major earthquake.
- The project will support shorter service interruption in the event of a pipeline break, provide operational flexibility for pipeline maintenance work, and improve drinking water reliability.

Stream Maintenance Program

- Every year, our crews trek into sections of the 275 miles of streams in Santa Clara County owned and managed by Valley Water to remove sediment build-up, manage vegetation, clear trash and debris, and stabilize banks that have eroded during high water flows.
- The work, part of our Stream Maintenance Program, ensures that streams with completed flood protection projects continue to function as designed to protect homes and businesses.
- Sediment removal and instream vegetation removal activities help to maintain creeks' ability to carry water, and bank stabilization helps protect existing infrastructure and adjacent properties.
- Weed abatement is performed to comply with fire codes.
- Pruning, weed abatement and herbicide application ensure maintenance access for staff, and in some cases public trail access.
- During FY 2018–19, 15 sediment removal projects, nine bank repairs, and 764 vegetation management projects were completed. This resulted in:
    - The removal of 18,164 cubic yards of sediment to maintain design capacity.
    - Stabilization of 886 liner feet of creek bank.
    - Instream vegetation removal activities of 1,096 acres on 153 miles of streams.
    - Mitigation site maintenance on 334 acres.
    - Removal of 2,864 acres of upland vegetation for access and fire code compliance.
    - Riparian planting installation of 10.27 acres.
    - Invasive plant management mitigation site maintenance on 120 acres.

X-band radar sits above Santa Clara County.

X-band radar

- This device will help Valley Water and our partner agencies know exactly where and how much rain is falling, and to predict rainfall and runoff events with greater accuracy.
- Sitting atop our Penitencia Water Treatment Plant in the county's east foothills, the X-band radar is part of a larger collaboration between Sonoma County Water, Colorado State University, the Department of Water Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and many other agencies to deploy four X-band radars and one C-band radar around the Bay Area.
- The network of radars will provide full radar coverage of the Bay Area, with the C-band radar looking off the coast to predict what is coming.
- With the new radar network, real time rainfall data will be collected at higher resolution in both time and space compared with the existing S-band network (every 1–2 minutes and 100 meters vs. 5–6 minutes and 1 km). The X-band at the Penitencia Treatment plant is also at a much lower elevation of about 450 feet than the nearby S-band radar at Mt. Umunhum (3,500 feet), and capable of measuring more accurately rainfall from lower elevation precipitation events such as atmospheric rivers.
- The existing S-band network provides sufficient data but when the X-band network is implemented, that data is expected to be better.

Anderson Dam

Progress on dam safety

- Studies on the state of some of our dams and spillways continued this fiscal year, helping Valley Water to plan further for seismic retrofit work.
- Valley Water is engaged in a major project to retrofit and strengthen Anderson Dam so it can safely withstand a strong earthquake.
- For the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, Valley Water is moving forward with preparing the environmental impact report and working with state and federal regulators on permitting.
- Currently, the amount of water that can be kept in some of our reservoirs is limited because of the need for seismic improvement.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta conveyance (former California Waterfix)

- In May 2018, Valley Water's board of directors voted to participate in the California Waterfix project, the state's plan under former Gov. Jerry Brown to improve the infrastructure that carries water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- The original project design included the construction of two parallel underground tunnels to bring water from north of the Delta to users south of the Delta, including Santa Clara County.
- In May 2018, the partners in the former California WaterFix formed the Delta Conveyance, Design and Construction Authority (DCA), a joint powers agency created for the single purpose of planning, designing and constructing the conveyance project. Valley Water Board Member Tony Estremera was selected as the first Chair of the DCA, and Valley Water Board Member Gary Kremen was selected as vice chair of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority.
- In September 2019, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution to support Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposal to develop a single tunnel project.

GRANTS HELP IMPROVE WATER

During the 15-year life of the Safe, Clean Water Program, Valley Water expects to distribute about $32 million in grants, partnerships and rebate programs, under several different funding categories.

Each year, one or more grant programs has a new funding cycle. These programs are part of Valley Water's commitment to protecting our environment and our work to restore habitat along creeks and the San Francisco Bay, clean toxins from the water, and to make sure water is used efficiently throughout the community. The Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnership Program awarded more than $2.4 million in grants and partnerships in FY19.

Water 101 Academy ambassadors

LEADING IN THE WATER INDUSTRY

As an industry leader, Valley Water works to educate the community on a variety of topics within the world of water. We believe strongly in this effort and have an Education Outreach Team dedicated to teaching students in Santa Clara County about valuing water as a precious resource, and the importance of environmental stewardship. Valley Water also leads efforts to inform and educate adults, including our new Water 101 Academy that made its debut in spring 2019.

Water 101 Academy

- Valley Water launched this program in February 2019 for residents of Santa Clara County who want to gain an understanding of local water issues and learn about current or future water projects going on in their local communities.
- The objective of this pilot program is to educate, inspire, engage, and empower a diverse group of community members to be water champions on issues related to safe, clean water and promote environmental stewardship within their own respective neighborhoods and communities.
- Valley Water received nearly 90 applications for the inaugural program, and 21 community ambassadors were selected throughout the county to participate. Those interested in future academies can email us at volunteer@valleywater.org to be added to the notification list.

Trails and Waterways Summit

- Last summer, Valley Water hosted the first Trails and Waterways Summit and brought together 70 policymakers and advocates from more than 24 agencies, nonprofits and municipalities across Santa Clara County.
- Attendees received information on the history of trail development along waterways and heard case studies on how to overcome challenges and leverage opportunities to advance trails along waterways.
- Those who participated in the summit gathered in small groups and engaged in moderated discussions to tackle common challenges, identify potential solutions, and develop commitments to address the challenges and implement solutions at their respective agencies and groups. Each small group then reported out to the larger group on their solutions and commitments.

Rainwater capture rebates

- Valley Water launched a new set of rebates to help Santa Clara County residents continue making conservation a California way of life. Rain barrels and cisterns are systems used to keep rainwater onsite for reuse within the landscape and are now available for a rebate.
- Rain gardens are sunken garden beds that collect stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces such as rooftops. These gardens are designed to mimic the natural landscape that once existed and have a variety of benefits. They help filter pollutants before reaching our creeks and streams, reduce flooding, recharge our groundwater supply, and provide wildlife habitat.
- For all rebates under the Landscape Rebate Program, application submittal and approval are required before purchasing any new equipment or starting any work. Please visit watersavings.org for more information or call our conservation hotline at (408) 630-2554.

Youth Commission advises board of directors

- As part of Valley Water's civic engagement efforts, we continued to build up our Youth Commission, which launched in 2017. The Youth Commission provides local high school students the opportunity to get directly involved in local water policy issues and have a seat at the table.
- The Youth Commission is an official advisory body of the Valley Water Board of Directors.
- The Youth Commission cultivates greater involvement of high school students in local government, inspires and develops future public policy leaders and professionals with an awareness of issues and activities related to water supply, conservation, flood protection and environmental stewardship.
- Each Valley Water board member appoints three high school students per district to the Youth Commission for a total of 21 commissioners.

Snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

A WATER SUPPLY THAT MEETS OUR NEEDS

A reliable supply of clean water is necessary for the social, economic, and environmental well-being of Santa Clara County. In addition to managing most of Santa Clara County's current water supplies, Valley Water is continuously planning for our future water needs.

Water supply planning

- We are currently developing the next Water Supply Master Plan, which presents Valley Water's strategy for meeting the county's water needs through 2040.
- This plan will help us estimate what we will need in years to come and to refine our plan to ensure we continue to provide safe, clean water to Santa Clara County. A draft of the plan was completed in FY20.
- Part of this plan looks ahead at how our water needs and our water supply may change. The population is likely to grow, and climate change is likely to alter snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, which currently provides about 40 percent of our water.
- Water infrastructure must be maintained and renewed. Droughts may be longer and more severe in the future.
- Securing our existing supplies includes a wide range of individual projects including retrofitting dams, pipeline maintenance, and maintaining our imported water supplies transported though the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project and Central Valley Project.
- The plan also includes a package of additional water conservation and stormwater projects and programs. These are projects that most everyone can get behind. This package includes a graywater rebate program expansion, incentives for repairing leaks, model ordinances to require water efficiency in new developments, and stormwater capture programs.

Water supply investments

- Part of our work to ensure an adequate supply of water for the future consists of investments in major water infrastructure projects.
- Expanding Pacheco Reservoir and the Recycled/Purified program, as well as continuing with conservation programs, is important in keeping our water supply portfolio diverse to help us weather dry times and keep up with demand.

Volunteers at National River Cleanup Day.

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We take pride in our role as good stewards of the environment, and our goal is to have a net positive effect on our natural surroundings in everything we do. Valley Water's commitment to protecting the environment is evident in our far-reaching efforts, ranging from work to restore habitat along creeks and the San Francisco Bay to offering grants to the community for projects that benefit the community.

Volunteers keep our creeks clean

- In FY 2018, the Civic Engagement Unit recruited and rallied 2,991 volunteers who cleaned 138 miles of creeks, picking up 103,388 pounds of trash. Their effort is equal to $348,032 of work benefit to Valley Water.
- On Sept. 15, 2018, at California Coastal Cleanup Day, 1,931 local volunteers cleaned 75.25 miles of creeks and collected 56,808 pounds of trash.
- On Dec. 3, 2018, Valley Water recognized one volunteer from each of the seven districts during the second annual Volunteer Recognition Event. The recipients were selected by the Valley Water board for their outstanding performance and ability to take on leadership roles in various creek cleanup events throughout the year.
- On May 18, 2019, at National River Cleanup Day, 1,070 local volunteers cleaned 62.9 miles of creeks in Santa Clara County and collected 46,645 pounds of trash.

Almaden Lake Improvement Project

- The project will restore the creek channel section within Almaden Lake Park and eliminate the current condition whereby Alamitos Creek flows through the lake.
- Having Alamitos Creek flow through Almaden Lake is unfavorable for the native fish population in the Guadalupe Watershed and further allows for a direct deposition of naturally occurring mercury-laden sediment into the lake. This has resulted in native fish (steelhead) potentially losing their way in the lake and falling prey to non-native fish (bass), as well as the lake having mercury-related water quality issues.
- The project is currently in the design phase, and we are drafting an Environmental Impact Report that will evaluate the project's potential environmental impacts.

Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

- A grant was awarded to Midpeninsula Open Space District to build a bridge and dispose of invasive plant species that can potentially harm native plants and wildlife in the area.
- With the construction of a new bridge, four miles of new hiking and equestrian trails have been opened to the public.

Fish Habitat and Passage Improvement

- In June, Valley Water began construction work on the Los Gatos Creek gravel augmentation/large woody debris placement project, which is located just downstream of Highway 17.
- Construction was expected to be completed in late 2019.

THE WORK CONTINUES . . .

Valley Water's work to provide protect people, homes and businesses from flooding, to protect the environment, and to protect and enhance our water supply continues. We left Fiscal Year 2019 with exciting opportunities on the horizon, and we entered Fiscal Year 2020 moving ahead quickly and carefully, positioning the organization to take advantage of those opportunities and to ready ourselves for any others that might help us enhance the water picture for the people, wildlife and habitat of Santa Clara County.

We hope you enjoy this calendar featuring the landscape, people, work and wildlife of Valley Water.

Valley Water

SALAMANDER SIGHTING

The California slender salamander generally seeks cover near streams and other moist environments, but this little amphibian was spotted outside the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant.

Photo Credit: Daniel Lopez

2020

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	New Year's Day 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 20	21	22	23	24	Chinese New Year 25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6		

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Valley Water

SUN PEEKING THROUGH THE CLOUDS

The sun tries to shine down on the ribbon-cutting event for the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project. Valley Water is dedicated to keeping businesses and residents safe through its flood protection efforts.

Photo Credit: Jim McCann

2020

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	Rosa Parks Day 4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15
16	Presidents' Day 17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	Ash Wednesday 26	27	28	29
1	2	3	4	5		

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Valley Water

BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY

A tiger swallowtail butterfly lands on sea lavender, a water-efficient landscape ornamental flower. Water-wise gardens save water and can benefit the environment.

Photo Credit: Kurt Hassy

2020

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	Employee Appreciation Day 6	7
Daylight Saving Time begins 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	Spring begins 19	20	21
World Water Day 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Cesar Chavez Day 31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9		

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Valley Water

THE EGRET HAS LANDED

A snowy egret splashes down in Guadalupe River. Valley Water works to improve habitat along streams in Santa Clara County.

Photo Credit: Jim McCann

2020

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	Good Friday 10	11
Easter Sunday 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	Yom HaShoah 20	21	Earth Day Administrative Professionals' Day 22	Ramadan begins 23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7		

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Valley Water

MAY MUSHROOM

In wet, warm weather, mushrooms sprout in abundance. This one was spotted at the Coyote Pump Plant.

Photo Credit: Jae Abel

2020

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	Cinco de Mayo 5	6	7	8	9
Mother's Day 10	11	12	13	14	15	National River Cleanup Day Armed Forces Day 16
17	18	19	20	21	22	Eid al-Fitr begins 23
24	Memorial Day 25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4		

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Valley Water

A VIEW FROM ABOVE

Imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is pumped to the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant in San Jose, which can treat and deliver up to 40 million gallons of safe, clean water per day.

Photo Credit: Andrew Chafer

2020

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Flag Day 14	15	16	17	18	Juneteenth 19	Summer begins 20
Father's Day 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9		

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Valley Water

SOAKING UP THE SUN

Valley Water is committed to protecting habitat for fish and wildlife, such as this Western fence lizard.

Photo Credit: Jae Abel

2020

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	Independence Day 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Parents' Day 26	27	28	29	Eid al-Adha begins 30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6		

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Valley Water

MAINTAINING OUR FACILITIES

Valley Water employees perform an inspection at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant. Providing Santa Clara County with safe, clean water is a primary function of Valley Water.

Photo Credit: Jim Crowley

2020

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	Senior Citizens Day 21	22
23	24	25	Women's Equality Day 26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3		

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Valley Water

BIRDS OF PREY

A red-shouldered hawk and bald eagle were both spotted near Alamitos Creek. An important part of Valley Water's work is to enhance, protect and restore our environment.

Photo Credit: Yvonne Arroyo

2020

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	Labor Day 7	8	9	10	11	12
National Grandparents Day 13	14	15	16	17	Rosh Hashanah begins 18	Coastal CleanUp Day 19
20	21	Autumn begins 22	23	24	25	26
Yom Kippur begins 27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8		

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Valley Water

SUNSET AT STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR

Valley Water employees observe the sunset on Stevens Creek Reservoir following a day of scientific studies.

Photo Credit: Sarah Gidre

2020

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
National Coming Out Day 11	Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 12	13	14	15	Boss's Day 16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Halloween 31
1	2	3	4	5		

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Valley Water

A PICTURE OF TRANQUILITY

As the groundwater management agency for Santa Clara County, Valley Water uses local and imported surface water to replenish groundwater supplies at the Coyote Percolation Pond and other recharge facilities.

Photo Credit: Sarah Gidre

2020

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Saints' Day Daylight Saving Time ends 1	All Souls' Day 2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	Veterans Day 11	12	13	Diwali 14
15	16	17	18	19	Transgender Day of Remembrance 20	21
22	23	24	25	Thanksgiving Day 26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10		

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Valley Water

SOMETHING TO FAWN OVER

This black-tailed deer stopped to check out a Valley Water employee along the Coyote-Alamitos canal. Common in Santa Clara County, deer thrive on the edges of forests and feed by browsing on a variety of plant material.

Photo Credit: Jae Abel

2020

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Winter begins 21	22	23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day 25	Kwanzaa begins 26
27	28	29	30	New Year's Eve 31	New Year's Day 1	2
3	4	5	6	7		

November

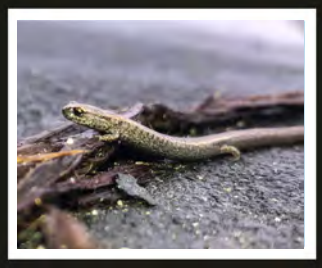
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

January

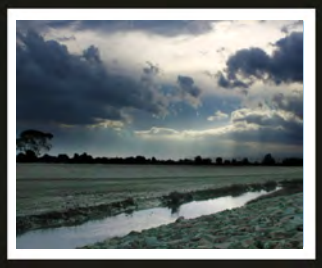
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MORNING MIST AT UVAS RESERVOIR
Photo credit: Jim McCann

All photos were taken by Valley Water employees.



SALAMANDER
Photo by: Daniel Lopez



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK
Photo by: Jim McCann

TIGER SHALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY
Photo by: Kurt Hassy

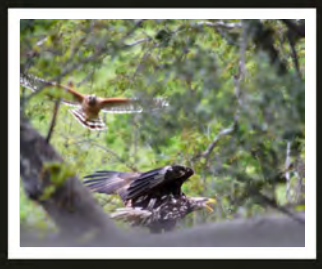
EGRET
Photo by: Jim McCann

MUSHROOM
Photo by: Jae Abel

PENITENCIA WATER TREATMENT PLANT
Photo by: Andrew Chafer

WESTERN FENCE LIZARD
Photo by: Jae Abel

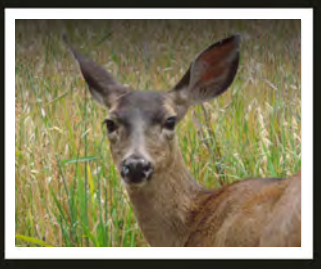
RINCONADA WATER TREATMENT PLANT
Photo by: Jim Crowley



BIRDS OF PREY
Photo by: Yvonne Arroyo

STEVENS CREEK SUNSET
Photo by: Sarah Gidre

COYOTE PERCOLATION POND
Photo by: Sarah Gidre



CALIFORNIA MULE DEER
Photo by: Jae Abel

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